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Township schools to begin education in fall in kindergarten to eighth grade in family life

By R. R. Faszczewski
A total family-life program, to include mental, physical and emotional health studies will be introduced in all eight grades of the Clark elementary school system next month.

At a presentation on the new program, which will go into effect under a state mandate, John Conlin, the principal of the township's Frank K. Hehny School and the chairman of the Family Living Committee, pointed out the five-tiered curriculum was developed

by a group composed of clergymen, doctors, Parent-Teacher Assn. members and citizens randomly chosen from voter lists. Mr. Conlin explained the program will concentrate on mental, physical and emotional health, interpersonal relationships and understanding of the life cycle. Students in kindergarten to second grade will receive 15 minutes of instruction a week, those in the third to fifth grades at least 20 minutes per week and those

in sixth to eighth grades at least 45 minutes a week. The lower-grade program will be limited to a study of terminology relating to the reproductive system. Instruction at the fourth- and fifth-grade level will be supplemented by films dealing with sexual maturation. Eighth graders will be offered a detailed discussion of the reproductive system. Any child whose parent or guardian objects to the student's inclusion in the instruction on health, family life or sex education be-

cause of a conflict with his conscience or moral or religious beliefs may be excused from the portion of instruction objected to if a signed statement is presented to the school principal. Board of Education members have urged all parents to become familiar with the courses and to participate in their development. The sex-education mandate's history goes back as far as 1977, when the state commissioner of education ruled in favor of a sex-education program in Dumont High School which had been objected to by parents.

The following year the New Jersey Board of Education affirmed the commissioner's decision, and Dept. of Human Services Commissioner Ann Klein and Dept. of Health Commissioner Joanne Finley spoke to the state board in favor of family life education in the public schools. The Dumont case, which centered around the rights of a parent to remove his child from a sex-education

program, was heard by the state Superior Court in 1979 and the court ruled since the state board was in the process of adopting administrative rules dealing with sex education and a bill was pending which would allow parents to remove their children from courses they found morally or religiously objectionable, the case was dismissed. A five-member committee appointed by Paul Ricci, the president of the state board, completed a

study of existing state policy on teaching sex education in public schools in August, 1979. That committee recommended the state board adopt rules and regulations requiring every Board of Education to provide family life education as part of its curriculum, and that parents be allowed to remove their children from the parts of the courses they found objectionable. The regulation suggested subject areas they thought should be included in a comprehensive program, but left it up to the local districts to develop their own policies and curriculum.

After some discussion of the topic in the State Senate the state board revised its regulations in 1980 to delete the listing of suggested topics and suggested the program was to be offered in the elementary and secondary grades, not in a kindergarten-to-12th-grade continuum. Presently, the New Jersey Dept. of Education has

a committee developing curriculum guidelines in family life education which, when completed, will be made available to the local districts to help them develop their own curricula. In addition, a state-wide inservice program is being planned to help the local districts provide training for those selected to teach these programs. The local districts were given until September of this year to be in full compliance with the state mandate on family life education. Technical assistance has been offered by the state department in the form of support from state colleges, private and public health agencies, school districts with successful programs in operation and the department itself. Copies of the Clark program have been made available to parents in the school libraries and at school administrative offices. When the vote was brought up in June to create a new position to provide a

teacher for the program, Board members, Edward Dreyfus and James Ketch, cast the dissenting ballots. Mr. Dreyfus stated at the time he didn't feel the school district needed a separate course to teach the subject and objected to taking the teacher's salary from the \$100,000 to \$150,000 left at the end of June in the school body's surplus account. Teaching-staff members holding certificates in biology, comprehensive science, elementary education, health and physical education, home economics, nursery, school nursing or psychology teaching are eligible under state law to teach in the program. Also, districts may use physicians, members of the clergy, attorneys, parents and guardians, school social workers and psychologists and law-enforcement personnel to explain different facets of the program. Local districts are also required to provide inservice training to teachers responsible for family life education programs.



CHANGING OF GUARD - The 1983-1984 officers of the Clark Jaycee-ettes were installed recently at a dinner at the Loft Restaurant. The officers are: President, Barbara Del Galzo; vice president, Rose Selnick; secretary, Gale Brazzo; treasurer, Marlene Hamilton and state director, Cheryl Wavra. A picnic is planned for the members and their families at Merrill Park on Saturday, Aug. 27. The ramdate is Sunday, Aug. 28. Women between the ages of 18 and 35 may telephone 362-1405 for more information concerning the Jaycee-ettes.



SUPER STROKE - John Barrett, left, the coach of the Gran Centurions Swim Team of Clark, accepts the third-place trophy for the "D" League Swimming Championships held on Aug. 6. Looking on are Tom Favors, center, the secretary of the league and meet director for the championships, and Trina Terry of Chatham, the chairwoman of the league.

Centurions take swimming honors

The Gran Centurions Swimming and Diving Team hosted the "D" League Swimming Championships of the New Jersey Swimming and Diving Conference on Aug. 6 at the Gran Centurions pool in Clark. Six teams competed in 50

Health care: College's big attraction

More than 900 students, or nearly 10% of Union County College's enrollment, have elected to major in one of the college's 12 health-career programs. Reflecting the urgent need for trained health professionals in the Union County area, today's college students are flocking to the health fields, according to Dr. Theodore Austin, the dean of allied health programs and the co-ordinator of nursing.

"Health care systems are changing dramatically, people are more concerned about their medical problems and are more sophisticated and intellectually aware, the public is demanding better and non-institutionalized care. This in turn will give rise to more community-centered health programs concentrating on good preventive medicine," Dr. Austin said.

Of the college's 12 health-related programs some have been part of the college's offerings for more than 20 years, and several more recent additions like radiography illustrate the college's response to current community health needs. All programs are implemented with the co-operation of local hospitals, and other health-service agencies which provide clinic and practical learning experiences for the enrollees in the various programs.

In the fall, 1983 semester the current allied health career options are: Dental Hygiene, Dental Assisting, Gran Centurions, capturing third place.

Other teams in the competition were Rivercrest of Piscataway, Colony of Chatham and Metuchen County Club.

Tom Favors of the Gran Centurions was the meet director. He was assisted by Vinnie Sabath and Tony Canonic. Parents of the Gran Centurions Swimming and Diving Team participated in making the championships successful.

TEAM PICTURE INSIDE

Dental Laboratory Technology, Medical Assisting, Medical Laboratory Technology, Medical Records Technology, Professional Nursing, Licensed Practical Nursing, Radiography, Occupational Therapy Assisting, Physical Therapy Assisting and Respiratory Therapy. Biology options are available for students who plan to go on in medical, dental, pharmacy, veterinary and other health sciences. These students take advanced biology courses at the college, which transfer to upper-level schools of their choice as they pursue their medical and scientific careers.

Of the 900 students in the varied health-career options, there were approximately 425 full-time students and 475 part-time students in the spring, 1983 semester. The largest enrollment by far is in the professional nursing program, which is offered in conjunction with Elizabeth General Medical Center of Elizabeth and Muhlenberg Hospital of Plainfield's Schools of Nursing.

There were nearly 500 students studying for their nursing diploma from the respective hospitals, and their college credit courses in English, psychology, sociology, biology, chemistry and other elective courses at the college. Graduates of the co-operative program are eligible to apply for the State Registered Nurse Licensure Examination and to enter baccalaureate nursing programs with advanced standing. This program has the largest nursing enrollment in the state.

Along with other staff members Dr. Austin is working on revisions that may provide a shorter time period for the professional nursing student to earn her or his associate degree and thus enter the health-employment area sooner or go on to complete the baccalaureate program in two years with a total of four years of full-time study. Presently, the average time of bachelor of science nursing studies is five years provided, between the county and state college in Union County.

Growing areas of employment for professional and licensed practical nurses include gerontology, public health, home care and working in outreach clinics and hospice centers. Catherine Helmick of Rahway, the co-ordinator of the college's Licensed Practical Nursing program, sees her 63 full-time students and 68 part-time students finding employment primarily in the above-listed areas, and a high percentage will continue to work in hospital care. The one-year diploma program requires 1,700 hours of study for 52 credits for completion.

Interestingly, half of Mrs. Helmick's students are women who are returning to the workforce who wish to pursue a worthwhile profession and be assured there will be employment after their academic studies. She, too, is working on curriculum modifications which will "within the college system offer a career ladder program which will provide an opportunity for licensed practical nurses to prepare for their registered-nursing licensure and for registered nurses to proceed to study for their bachelor of science degree in nursing in time to permit adequate preparation without excess redundancy of course work. The three dental programs - Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene and Dental Laboratory Technology - have a total of 101 students enrolled on a full-time and part-time basis. The Dental Laboratory Program is the only one offered in New Jersey, and is one of the college's few health programs that has a higher percentage of male than female enrollees.

Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Respiratory Therapy had 27, 42 and 28 students enrolled in their respective areas of study in the spring semester. Each program requires two years of full-time study plus clinic experiences in the field.

Many part-time students take a longer time period and adapt their programs to their personal needs. Most graduates of the three therapy programs find employment in clinics, private institutions, hospitals and extended-care facilities and often can visit patients in a homecare situation. The newest member of the college's health-career offerings is the Amplified Program in Radiography conducted jointly with Elizabeth General Medical Center and Muhlenberg Hospital's Schools of Radiography, and it numbered seven members in the first class at the college's June graduation this year.

The final three programs which complete the dozen allied health options are Medical Assisting, Medical Laboratory Technology and Medical Records Technology. They enroll more than 100 students.

The medical-records profession is in the midst of a booming employment status. Particularly in New Jersey, where all general hospitals have the Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) method of reimbursement for patient care instituted by state regulation, the importance of accurate and complete medical records is vital. According to Margaret Hayes, the co-ordinator of the medical records program, the need for more medical record personnel in hospitals is a result of the emphasis on accuracy of coding and the professional necessity of quality work in medical records.

In all of the 12 health-related programs offered at the college, the central issue is meeting the health-care needs of the citizens of Union County. Dr. Austin said all programs are in a constant state of review to meet state and licensure regulations and to achieve the college's goals of serving Union County citizens.

For further information about any of the programs please telephone 272-8380 or Dr. Austin at 272-2600, extension 256.

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CLIMBING STAIRS TO SUCCESS - Gathering at the conclusion of the Union County Regional High School District No. 1's summer Title I Program, left to right, are: Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School of Clark guidance counselor, Lorraine Olszewski, and learning disabilities specialist, Joanna Diana, with student, Richard Fishery, Jr. and his father. Forty-three students from Berkeley Heights, Clark, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside and Springfield were in the basic skills summer program of the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 at Jonathan Dayton Regional High School in Springfield the summer. Teachers from all four high schools in the district participated in the program, which offered remedial skills in reading, mathematics and language arts, as well as career counseling and classes in study skills and shop. At its conclusion parents, teachers and students gathered for coffee and informal conferences. The students will enter ninth grade in the regional high schools, Gov. Livingston in Berkeley Heights, Arthur L. Johnson, David Brasler in Kenilworth and Jonathan Dayton in September.

ON THE WAY UP



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